India's Stand on N.P.T.

*148. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's consistent reluctance to sign the discriminatory Non-Proliferation Treaty is an obstacle to improve Indo-U.S. relations;

(b) if so, whether there would be more pressure on India to change her stand as France and Russia have changed their stance in regard to Non-Proliferation Treaty agreement; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to convince the power block about its stand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) There are policy differences between India and the US in respect of the Non-Proliferation Treaty which are presently under discussion.

Former USSR was a depository state of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and Russia has now assumed this status as a successor state. France has also acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty by depositing its instruments of ratification on August 3, 1992. However, France's accession is as a nuclear weapon state as it had developed nuclear weapons before 1-1-67, the cut-off date specified in the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Government has called for developing a global non-proliferation regime through consensus. Bilateral dialogues with a number of countries are underway to discuss these issues and narrow the differences in perceptions with a view to evolving an international consensus.

Norms for Recognition of SC/ST Government Employees Associations

*149. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed for recognition of SC/ST Government Employees' Associations;

(b) the number of SC/ST Government Employees' Associations recognised during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether any request for recognition of such associations has been received from any Government Department/Association during 1991 and 1992; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) and (b) As a policy, no association of employees based on caste, creed, religion etc. is recognised. In the light of this policy, SC/ST Government Employees Associations cannot be given recognition.

(c) and (d) Requests for recognition of such associations are to be examined by the Ministries/Departments concerned and are not being monitored centrally. In any case, in tune with Government policy, the question of recognising such Associations does not arise.

Proposals received by the Rubber Board

*150. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :

SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rubber Board has received proposals from some companies for growing rubber in North West Bengal areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO & RURAL INDUSTRIES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. J. KURIEN) : (a) and (b) The Rubber Board has been receiving enquiries from individuals and certain companies seeking the suitability for raising rubber plantations in the Northern Districts of the State of West Bengal. They have been advised by the Rubber Board that certain areas especially in Jalpaiguri and adjoining districts in the